

# PRES PRESS



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

1215 Campbell Rd | Houston, TX 77055

*relationships matter*  
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



## From the desk of Pastor Mark...

One of the most wonderful people who was in my life for many, many years was my Granddaddy. He was an amazing man who did many unusual and interesting things in his life. He was also one of the best storytellers I ever knew. He would tell stories about things he had seen or people in our family who had done some unusual things, or what it was like to live in the years way before me. I always listened because he was a good storyteller – but also because I was interested in what he had to say.

One thing I never heard him talk about (and I never asked him either!) was what happened to his left hand. For my entire life, Granddaddy's left hand was not the same as his right hand. He was missing half of his thumb, most of his index finger, and his middle finger would not bend very much. My mother explained to me that his hand had been badly injured in an accident when he was a little kid.

Yet, none of that stopped Granddaddy from being a pretty handy carpenter, painter, and worker who could do just about anything around the house. It also didn't stop him from being really good at his favorite game – golf. He would often beat his friends, his older brother who was a golf pro, and anyone else who played with him. Several times he got a hole-in-one, or shot his age (when he turned 70, he declared that maybe it would get easier to do that). He could also take the hand of any child who wanted to go for a walk without being sensitive or embarrassed about his lack of fingers.

I never heard him complain once... not a single time. In fact, he rarely complained about anything – except bad weather.

He was also a man of God whose faith was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. He didn't push his faith on anyone – he just lived his life and set a wonderful example for everyone who cared to take a close look.

Whenever I think of him, I remember a quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians:  
*"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Granddaddy could have complained a lot about many bad things that happened during his life. But he never did. And his left hand always reminded me not to complain either. Instead, I need to give thanks like my beloved Granddaddy did!

Amen!

# Missions of the Month

The "Mission of the Month" in May is Mo-Ranch. Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is a conference and retreat center related by covenant to the Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



Over the years, we have sent numerous groups of youth to their summer conferences, as well as held adult and family retreats at their facilities so that we may experience spiritual growth below the stars. Our Pentecost Offering will be going to this devoted mission.



## May Mission Updates and Opportunities

### **PCHAS Luncheon –**

PCHAS hosted their annual fundraising luncheon on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and it was another successful luncheon. Great job PW for coordinating this event! We had 4 full tables of SPBC folks in attendance.



### **Fair Haven Food Pantry –**

People are hungry all year long, not just during the Super Bowl and the winter holidays. Anytime you are at the grocery store, consider putting some extra items into your cart and bring them to the tubs outside the church office. Our less fortunate neighbors will appreciate our food donations to our favorite local food pantry!

**May 4th Church Picnic Mission Opportunity** – We will be packing homeless bags to hand out to the less fortunate around Houston. If you would like to provide some of the filler for these bags, please reach out to Laurie Mitchell. See the related article in this month's PresPress for more details.



**Annual CarePartners Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** – took place on April 1st. Four members of our church attended. This crew is part of the dedicated team that offers our wonderful monthly Gathering Place.



# Church Picnic



**Join us after worship on  
May 4th for a picnic lunch  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Sandwiches, veggies & drinks  
will be provided.**

**Please bring a salad, dessert,  
chips or dip.**

**There will be some games,  
but you are welcome to bring  
your own to share.**



**We will also be working on a special mission project.**

**Come join the fun and get to know some  
people you may not know yet!**

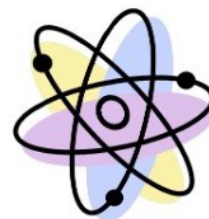


**At the family picnic, your mission team has planned an  
opportunity for everyone to pack a bag to keep in your  
car with goodies to pass out to an unhoused person  
you see while you are out and about.**

**Please reach out to Laurie Mitchell if you would like to  
help provide items that we can put in the bags - for  
example, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, wet  
wipes, snacks, water bottles, etc.**



## Idea Spring Presents



 @SBPC.Idea.Spring  
[www.springbranchpres.org/ideaspring](http://www.springbranchpres.org/ideaspring)  
[ideaspring@springbranchpres.org](mailto:ideaspring@springbranchpres.org)



## Save-the-Date for Vacation Bible School!

June 9-13, 2025  
9:00 AM-11:30 AM

*A time of worship, music, crafts, recreation, mission, science, and fellowship is being planned. We welcome any individuals that would like to participate or volunteer to please let Pastor Savannah or Jacque Ballesteros know.*

[VBS Registration Form 2025](#)  
[VBS Youth Volunteer Registration Form 2025](#)  
[VBS Adult Volunteer Registration Form 2025](#)



**Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, 1215 Campbell Rd.  
Vacation Bible School: Monday-Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Information (for children who have completed Pre-K through just finished 5th grade):**

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age on June 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Last school grade completed (2024-2025) \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers:** Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Church (if not SBPC):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies/Medical Information/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Emergency Contact(s):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Dismissal Information:**

Name(s) of person(s) other than parents who may pick up this child from VBS:

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*Forms should be returned to the church office or emailed to [jballesteros1103@gmail.com](mailto:jballesteros1103@gmail.com) or [savannah@springbranchpres.org](mailto:savannah@springbranchpres.org).*



## Wednesday Night Supper



*Taking reservations during the pandemic helped us to reduce food waste in the kitchen and improved our meal planning.*

*We plan to continue the reservation process, but will also take walk-ins as long as we have extra food to serve. Kay Craig has taken over the reservation process, so, if you'd like to attend, please email Kay at [kay@craig-heidt.com](mailto:kay@craig-heidt.com).*

**May 7 — Lasagna**

*Laurie Mitchell*

**May 14 — Chicken Fried Steak**

*Kay Craig and Betty Magnuson*

**May 21 — Smorgasbord Buffet**

*Last WNS of the School Year!*

Prices for the supper are as follows:

Adults (age 13 & up) \$5.00

Children (ages 1-12) \$2.00

Family w/children ages 1-12 \$12.00

*(immediate family only please)*

***We are now accepting credit card payments at Wednesday Night Supper!***

## Celebrate May Birthdays!

Join friends and congregation members in the breezeway on Sunday, May 11th, as we celebrate folks born during the month of May. Fellowship and light refreshments will be available immediately following worship.



# Presbyterian Women this Month



## PW at a Glance



**PW UNWIND** will meet on 5/5 at 6:00 PM at Dish Society.

**PW BOARD MEETING** on 5/7 at 10:15 a.m. (Conference Room).

**THE HORIZONS** Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, 5/13 at 7:00 p.m.

**PW DAY CIRCLE** meeting on 5/14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Patti Nanney for an invitation.

**Lesson 9 Video:** [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justic-roll-down](http://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justic-roll-down).

Special **ZIP TRIP** for May to be announced!

**HAPPY HANDS** will meet on 5/28 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

**PW WELCOMING LUNCHEON** on 8/10 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### *Bible Study Using Zoom: May 13th at 7:00 p.m.*

Lesson 9 of *Let Justice Roll Down* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Tuesday, May 13th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Sarah Powell at [mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com](mailto:mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com) to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting.



**DISH  
SOCIETY**

**The Unwind Group will meet for dinner on Monday, May 5th, at 6:00 PM at Dish Society** (12525 Memorial Dr). Please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114, only if you plan to attend. Please join us!

***Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, May 28th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Join us for stuffing, stitching, other hand work, and/or great conversation. We hope to see you there!***



**Attention all young adults!**  
**All college-aged to mid-thirties,**  
**up and coming professionals are welcome!**

You are invited to the Young Adult Breakfast Club with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **First Watch** (9778 Katy Fwy, 77055) on **Sunday, 5/18, at 9:00 AM**. The Young Adult Breakfast Club meets monthly for a time of fellowship and connection. Childcare is available at the church. We will meet at the church at **9:00 AM** to carpool. Bring \$5 and the church will cover the rest! We look forward to connecting with you then! Please email **Pastor Savannah Goodman** ([savannah@springbranchpres.org](mailto:savannah@springbranchpres.org)) with any questions.



Do you like making new friends and welcoming people? If so, we have a very important job for you! We are excited to introduce The Connect Crew - a group that is focused on welcoming and connecting visitors and new members to our church family. If you have a warm smile, a heart for hospitality, and a desire to help others feel at home, we invite you to attend a 30-minute informational and brainstorming meeting on

**Wednesday, 5/7 at 6:30 PM** in the conference room. Please join us to learn more! If you have any questions and/or plan to attend, please email Pastor Savannah ([savannah@springbranchpres.org](mailto:savannah@springbranchpres.org)) or Pastor Mark ([mark@springbranchpres.org](mailto:mark@springbranchpres.org)).



**Children's Sunday School Class meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 9:30am** in the Children's classroom in The Gathering Place.





## Picnic Outreach Opportunity

We are collecting “filler” to assemble toiletries and snacks into gallon zip locks for our members to take in their cars to hand out to those we see in need around Houston. If you are interested in providing socks, water bottles, nonperishable snack, toiletries, or bags, please let Laurie Mitchell know. We are hoping to have enough materials to pack about 25 bags at the picnic.

## Would you like an easy volunteer opportunity?

Once a month, the Mission Team puts a treat for the Academy teachers in their break room. If you are interested in taking a month this coming school year, please let Laurie Mitchell know.



*Thank you to our Scouts for their recent projects around the Church!*



*Girl Scout Troop 124182 planting roses for Easter Sunday!*



## Austin Young's Eagle Scout Project!

*Building and Installing a Little Library, and an octagonal bench around the Oak tree in the afterschooler's playground.*





**The Gathering Place will meet  
on Monday, May 19th, at  
10:00 AM!** The theme for this  
month is *Mad Hatter's Tea Party!*  
Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or  
Sarah Dikeman if you are  
interested in helping out.

**Join us on Sunday, June 1st, for the  
Ordination and Installation of the Ruling  
Elders for the Class of 2028  
(Jim Kunkel, Betty Magnuson, Sarah Powell).**



**PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

**Sunday, June 8th**

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start—a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through adulthood. Our congregation is joining the whole church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith.

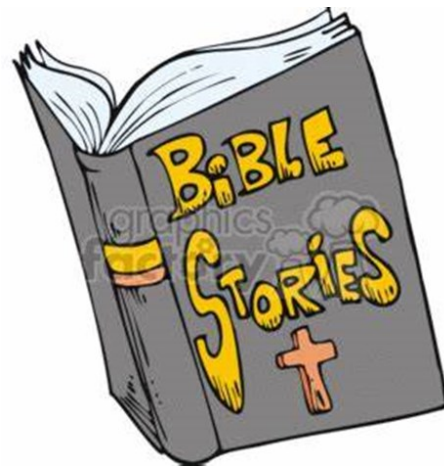
**Ways to Give:**

- Through your congregation (on Sunday, June 8th)
- Donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/donatepentecost](https://pcusa.org/donatepentecost)
- Text PENTECOST to 91999 to give

A Foundation of Faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.



**Stories & Songs** occurs during Worship, with stories from *Growing in God's Love*, songs, coloring pages, and crafts. Pastor Savannah has chosen the stories to coincide with the Sermons. This program is during the Worship Service for ages 3-6 years old. Children leave the Sanctuary right after Children's Moment and are returned to their parents during the last hymn.



Volunteers are needed weekly to help with this program. Please call Pastor Savannah in the church office or Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114.



**Children's Chime Choir:** The Chime Choir meets in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. This is a chance for elementary aged children to get to ring chimes as part of Worship. We are excited to continue this new adventure! Please contact Megan Hogg ([megan1661@yahoo.com](mailto:megan1661@yahoo.com)) for additional details.

## Calling all Youth!!

The Youth meet in the Youth Room for Bible Study, Fellowship, and Mission work with the Pastors. Meetings are at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Other volunteers for the program are Jordan Goodman, Carla Pace, and Riley Fairchild.



If you would like to volunteer for a segment, please call Jacquie Ballesteros (713-305-1114), or Pastor Savannah Goodman at the church office. Please come and join in the fun!!



## BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH



Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2025 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex. If you are currently worshipping from home, but would still like to sponsor flowers for a Worship Service, you may signup digitally by using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CABAC2BA1FA7-54170716-2025>, or email [jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org](mailto:jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org). **The cost per arrangement**

**is \$65.00. Special arrangements vary and should be requested EARLY!** Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office (Attn: Jorida) or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



**SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends** – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have 2 routes, so we usually need a total of 4 volunteers each month. Please contact Lu Taylor if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month. Or go to this [LINK](#) to sign-up online!

### FRIDAY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to receive our weekly announcements via email every Friday? Sign-up by visiting our Church website, [www.springbranchpres.org](http://www.springbranchpres.org).

sign up for our  
Mailing List

### Church's Prayer Chain List?

*The email prayer chain is open all who would like to pray for those individuals in need of prayer. If you would like to be included in the email prayer chain as a prayer warrior or if you have a prayer request for an individual, contact [swdmmd@dikeman.net](mailto:swdmmd@dikeman.net). It is requested that prayers be for your family members, or extended families and friends who are in need of prayer.*



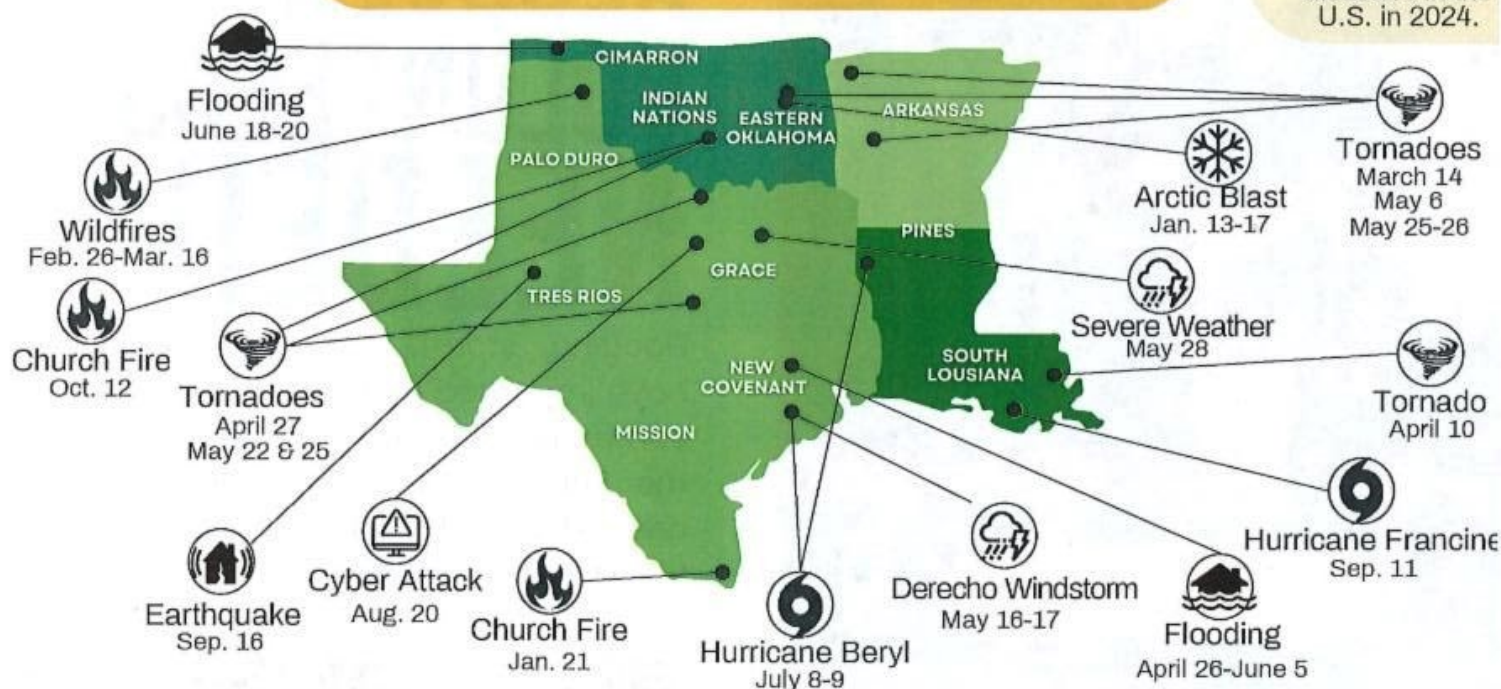
# SYNOD OF THE SUN *Partnership* FOR DISASTER **RECOVERY**

# 2024

*Year in Review*

**12.65 Days**  
The average  
time between  
billion-dollar  
weather and  
climate  
disasters in the  
U.S. in 2024.

## 20 Disasters Across 11 Presbyteries



## 2024 DISASTER GRANTS



**\$25,000** Long Term Recovery Grant



**\$40,902** Church Damage Grants



**\$57,000** Initial Response Grants

**\$122,902 TOTAL GRANTS**

*Awarded by*  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
& the Synod of the Sun



**12** PDA National Response Team  
Members were received by **4**  
Presbyteries & the Synod of the  
Sun to support recovering congregations  
and communities and to provide training  
and disaster response connections.



**5** Sites across the Synod are  
ready to welcome disaster  
volunteer work teams to help  
provide debris cleanup and  
support home rebuilding efforts.



**TEAMS & VOLUNTEER SITES**





# Happy Birthday




Nick Goodrich, III	5/2	Rebeca Alegria	5/15
Bryn Fuller	5/4	Curtis Stockton	5/15
Claire Tessier	5/8	Emmett Laverty	5/20
Evan Powell	5/9	Madelynn Turney	5/21
Ken Crawford	5/10	Savannah Goodman	5/22
Caroline Bik	5/11	Jeanne Plunkett	5/22
Matt Dikeman	5/11	Kay Kay Haulcy	5/23
John Lazo	5/12	Nikki Childs	5/26
Ellie Cross	5/14	Thomas Daley	5/29
Anthony Tapia	5/14	Angelina Rojas	5/30

# Happy Anniversary!



Jim Kunkel and Lu Taylor	5/16
Robert and Sonya Bear	5/31



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study 5pm - Messy Church (FH) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)	6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP) 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - Family Picnic (FH) 12:15pm - Handbell Choir (S) 4pm - Cub Scouts Pack	6pm - PW Unwind 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - New Elder Training (CR) 7pm - CENTI Bible Study &	10:15am - PW Board Meeting (CR) 3:30pm - WOW (S) 6pm - WNS 6:30pm - The Connect Crew (CR)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	6pm - SBIM Arc Meeting (CR) 7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)	6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day 9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Chime Choir 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12pm - Monthly Birthday 12:15pm - Handbell Choir (S)	5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6:30pm - Fellowship Meeting (CR) 7pm - CENTI Bible Study & 7pm - Horizon's Bible Study on	9:30am - PW Circle (CR & FH) 3:30pm - WOW (S) 5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4) 6pm - WNS	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study 5pm - Idea Spring (FH) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	11:30am - Pre-K Graduation (S & 7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)	8am - Presbyterian Men (CR) 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am - Young Adult Breakfast Club 9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP) 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - Handbell Choir (S) 12:15pm - VBS Meeting (CR)	10am - The Gathering Place (FH) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut) 7pm - Mission Team Meeting	PresPress Articles DUE 10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 7pm - CENTI Bible Study &	9:30am - ZIP Trip 3:30pm - WOW (S) 6pm - WNS	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	6pm - SBIM Arc Meeting (FH) 7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)	11am - Hot Meals 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Chime Choir 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - Handbell Choir (S)	Church & Academy Closed Memorial Day 	10am - Flexercise (GP) 10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 7pm - CENTI Bible Study & 7pm - Session (CR)	9:30am - Happy Hands (CR) 5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)	Ascension of the Lord 10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)	8am - Cheerful Clown Alley (FH) 11am - Memorial Service: Dick 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)



Sponsored By:

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